



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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April 2, 1990

Paul S. Mushovic  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VIII  
999 18th Street  
Suite 580  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405

RE: Comments on the Monticello Millsite ROD.

Dear Mr. Mushovic:

The State of Utah has the following comments on the Record of Decision for the Monticello Millsite:

GENERAL:

After review of the February 1990, Monticello Remedial Action Project Screening Analysis for the South Site, the State questions the basis used in the travel-time calculations for the cell design in the RI/FS. The State feels that it is likely that a cell can be designed for the South Site which will meet the travel-time requirements for UMTRA and other ARARs. However, it is still a possibility that no cell design exists that will meet the proposed ground water regulations for UMTRA. If this is the case, the RI/FS and ROD will have to be amended and a new site selected.

DECLARATION FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION:

- 1) Page 2, bullet 2: Change "with a clay and multimedia cap designed" to "the repository".
- 2) Page 2, bullet 3: The purpose of the surface-water controls needs to be clarified (ie. for construction purposes or as part of the permanent cell)?
- 3) Page 2, bullet 4: It should be clarified that treatment of runoff water will take place only during construction.

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- 4) Page 2, bullet 5: Eliminate "tailings" from the sentence.
- 5) Pages 2 and 3: Selected remedy for Operable Unit III (Ground Water) needs to be changed to the following:

Remedial action of Operable Unit III addresses cleanup of the groundwater contamination. Operable Units I/II are scheduled to be completed over a five year period. Post surveillance reviews are scheduled under CERCLA at five year intervals commencing with removal of the source material.

During the remedial action of Operable Units I/II, the characteristics of the ground water (Operable Unit III) will be altered. Remedial action construction will cause three changes to the aquifer:

- 1) Surface water, a principle source of ground water, will be diverted around the site. This will cause unknown effects in the attenuation and chemical properties of soils below the site.

- 2) During construction, portions of the site must be dewatered to facilitate removal activities, thus removing a large amount of water from the aquifer. All water from dewatering and construction activities will be treated in an appropriate manner.

- 3) Soil in the aquifer, contaminated in excess of UMTRA standards, will be removed during the remedial action of Operable Unit 1. The contaminated water retained in the contaminated soils will be removed with the soils.

The results of these changes will have an unknown effect on the characteristics of the aquifer.

Throughout construction of Operable Units I/II, a ground-water monitoring program of the alluvial and Burro Canyon aquifers will be conducted. This monitoring program will continue for three years after removal of the contaminated material. As monitoring continues during the three year period the DOE, EPA, and the State of Utah will periodically review the results of the monitoring data and determine what additional steps, if any, will be required to complete aquifer restoration. When sufficient data has been gathered to warrant

a final decision for ground-water restoration, a Record of Decision will be produced for Operable Unit III.

Institutional controls will be implemented prior to construction. These controls will be maintained until the aquifer is in compliance with the prevailing standards.

COMMENTS ON THE DECISION SUMMARY FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION:

- 1) Page 1 is missing.
- 2) Page 6, paragraph 1: Please include a map of the millsite and the tailings piles here.
- 3) Page 6, paragraphs 2 and 4: Change "the aquifer is separated by two aquitars" to "over most of the site the aquifer is separated by two aquitars." Part of the Mancos is missing at the east of the site and 3,000 feet to the east of the site the alluvial aquifer comes in contact with the Burro Canyon aquifer.
- 4) Page 6, paragraphs 5 and 6: The first letter in formation should be capitalized after Burro Canyon.
- 5) Page 6, last paragraph: Please specify the location of the reservoir (eg. the reservoir is located on south creek one mile from the highway.)
- 6) Page 7, paragraph 8: Be sure to include plate 1-1 in the final ROD.
- 7) Page 10, paragraph 3, sentence 4: Change "transferred to the tailings" to "transferred to the tailings ponds."
- 8) Page 13, paragraph 1, sentence 1: Change "comments from the EPA and the State of Utah" to "additional comments."
- 9) Page 13, paragraph 3: This may be a good place to explain why the source of contamination must be removed before selecting an alternative for Operable Unit III (ground water).
- 10) Page 13, last paragraph: Change "by using conventional construction equipment" to "by conventional construction methods or environmentally sensitive methods"
- 11) Page 22, paragraph 2, last sentence: This sentence needs some explanation.

- 12) Page 28, paragraph 4: The uses of the farm pond should be described.
- 13) Page 44, paragraph 3: The first letter in formation should be capitalized after Burro Canyon.
- 14) Page 44, paragraph 3, last sentence: Change "prevent" to "slow."
- 15) Page 58, paragraph 2: Indicate in this paragraph that there are other cell designs that meet UMTRA standards and that the final cell design will be chosen based on a evaluation of various cell designs, subject to approval by the EPA and the State of Utah.
- 16) Page 62, bullet 1 and 2: Some differentiation needs to be made between Type B and Type B-SS; otherwise, there is no need for the different Types.
- 17) Page 64, paragraph 2: Change "would be" to "may be."
- 18) Page 67, paragraph 4, sentence 2: Change "erosion, and" to "erosion, to provide frost protection, and."
- 19) Page 69, paragraph 5: The risk index needs to be explained.
- 20) Page 73, last paragraph, sentence 2: Off-site borrow may be required for rip-rap, other rock used in erosion control, and sand. "No off-site borrow" needs to be changed to reflect this.
- 21) Section 8.3 (pages 79 to 88): With the deferral of the ROD for Operable Unit III this section should be deleted.
- 22) Page 93, paragraph 2, sentence 2: Change "would" to "may."
- 23) Section 9.1.3 (pages 97 to 99): With the deferral of the ROD for Operable Unit III this section should be changed to support the reason for not choosing a remedial action for Operable Unit III.
- 24) The following should be added to (or changed on) the list of State ARARs presented in Table 10-1:

- \* (Under existing title Utah Code Annotated Title 26, Chapter 11)
  - R448-8, U.A.C., Utah Pollution Discharge Elimination System (for point source discharges into surface water)

- \* New title: Utah Code Annotated Title 26, Chapter 14
  - R450-101, U.A.C. Utah Corrective Action Policy
- \* New title: Utah Code Annotated Title 26, Chapter 14
  - R613-004-111, U.A.C. Reclamation Practices.
- \* (Correction to existing title Utah Code Annotated Title 26, Chapter 13)
  - R446-1-4.5, U.A.C. regulates fugitive dust and fugitive emissions (not fugitive dust emissions).

These additions and corrections have been presented in the same format as other entries in Table 10-1, but it should be noted that we have previously provided or are now providing DOE with additional information about these requirements.

DOE has committed to postpone the Final ROD for Operable Unit III, regarding ground water at the Site. For that reason, we have also agreed to postpone consideration of whether the Utah Safe Drinking Water Act and rules promulgated thereunder are applicable, relevant or appropriate to remediation of that OU (along with several other provisions identified in Table 10-1 or above), as we have previously asserted. If for some reason DOE completes a final ROD for OU III at this time, it is the position of the State that the Utah Safe Drinking Water Act and rules promulgated thereunder are ARARs.

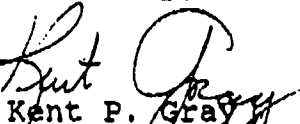
#### RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY:

- 1) The transcript of the meeting should be referenced in the Responsiveness Summary.
- 2) Page A-1, paragraph 1, last sentence: Change "comments from the EPA and the State of Utah" to "additional comments."
- 3) Page A-1, paragraph 3, sentence 3: Change "Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste" to "Bureau of Radiation Control."
- 4) Page A-2, paragraph 1, sentence 1: Change "the proposed" to "the DOE's proposed."
- 5) Page A-5, paragraph 1, sentence 3: Change "comments from the EPA and the State of Utah" to "additional comments."

- 6) Page A-7, paragraphs 3 and 4: A site-specific health and safety plan is necessary to insure proper remedial design. The DOE needs to develop a site-specific health and safety plan before any field work begins for RD/RA.
- 7) Page A-9, DOE response 2: This response should be changed to agree with the present ground water position.
- 8) Page A-18, DOE response 4: This response should be changed to agree with the present ground water position.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Peterson at (801) 538-6170.

Sincerely,

  
Kent P. Gray  
CERCLA Branch Manager

KPG/SJP/sjp

c: Larry Anderson  
Mark Day  
Robert L. Furlow, M.A.